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University of New Hampshire Exceeds Capital Campaign Fundraising Goal More than Two Years Ahead of Schedule

By [Sarah Aldag](#)

University Relations and UNH Foundation

June 3, 2002

DURHAM, N.H. -- The Next Horizon: The Campaign for the University of New Hampshire has surpassed its \$100 million goal, according to Young P. Dawkins III, president of the UNH Foundation. "This is a stunning achievement, and the credit is yours," he announced to an audience of more than 300 donors, alumni, faculty, staff and friends at the Foundation's annual meeting June 1.

Gifts and pledges to the campaign, which was set to run through the end of fiscal year 2004, currently total \$100,851,928.87. The final tally will include all gifts and pledges made by the end of this current fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Calling it a very proud day, UNH President Joan Leitzel said, "The campaign also brings gifts to our university beyond the financial resources needed to enhance the quality of our programs. It has provided us with an understanding of how we will build academic quality at UNH for the next decade." The \$100 million campaign is believed to be the most ambitious public drive in the history of the state. The last UNH fundraising effort raised \$18 million in the early 1980s for capital improvements.

Next Horizon campaign priorities called for funding for student scholarships, support for faculty and academic programs, and improvement of instructional technology and library resources. "Previous generations have given UNH its values, its missions, and its physical plant," said Leitzel. "Our generation must provide broad access for qualified students, secure the quality of our academic programs, and enable the learning that takes

place here to be applied to human problems around the globe."

Dawkins cited several of the new initiatives resulting from the campaign: three new interdisciplinary centers of academic excellence, five new endowed faculty chairs, more than \$26 million of endowed support for scholarships and fellowships, and new endowments to support term professorships, visiting professors and distinguished lecturers. "Our undergraduate scholarships alone surpassed the goal of \$15 million by over \$4.5 million dollars," he said, "and another \$4 million of endowment has been dedicated to athletic scholarships."

Since the Next Horizon kick-off in October, 1999, there have been numerous large and small gifts including the recent \$7.5 million from UNH alumna and television producer Marcy Carsey; a \$10 million gift from Troy native Peter Paul, who graduated from UNH in 1967; a \$7 million gift from Dana and Kathryn Hamel, of Moultonborough; and a multi-million dollar gift from Tyco to support scholarships and the university's ocean mapping program.

The Foundation Board's annual meeting last week included a special program called "Promises Made, Promises Kept," where Dawkins outlined the history and progress of the campaign over the past three years, as well as paying special tribute to President Leitzel.

Leitzel, who will retire at the end of the month, received a standing ovation. She quoted the Manchester Daily Press, who wrote at the time of the university's founding, "All the agricultural colleges between here and the setting sun will not convert the rocky hills of New Hampshire into Gardens of Eden."

"A Garden of Eden we are not," said Leitzel, "but the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts has become a world-class university providing education, research and public service of high quality and immeasurable value."

"The momentum of this campaign has brought us to a new day," Dawkins said. "And perhaps our greatest accomplishment is the solid tangible evidence, and the confidence it brings. That we can set the mark very

high, and then surpass that goal, that we can achieve our part in helping make sure that the University of New Hampshire achieves its fullest measure of greatness."

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